

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0238

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, IR

SUBJ: US/IRANIAN JOINT COMMISSION: VISIT OF MEHRAN

1. CHARGE, DRAPER OF NEA, AND SCHERMERHORN MET WITH FINANCE VICE MINISTER VAFA, ON JAN 9 TO DISCUSS COMMISSION PROGRAMS. DR VAFA IMMEDIATELY SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF HOW THE USG WOULD INVOLVE THE AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR IN COMMISSION ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS. HIS REMARKS ECHOED THOSE MADE BY OTHER IRANIAN OFFICIALS TO DRAPER, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE IRANIANS HOPE THAT THE USG WILL PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE THAN THAT OF A CATALYST IN MOBILIZING OUR PRIVATE SECTOR TO TAKE ON MAJOR INDUSTRIAL AND DEVELOPMENS PROJECTS.

2. DR VAFA SAID HE WOULD LIKE DR HOSSAN ALI MEHRAN, UNDERSECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE, TO DISCUS THIS ISSUE WITH COMMERCE UNDERSECRETARY TABOR WHEN MEHRAN IS IN WASHINGTON, JAN 12-19, FOR THE IMF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS. WE SAID THAT WE WERE CONFIDENT THAT MR TABOR, PROVIDED HE WAS IN WASHINGTON, WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE MEHRAN. DR VAFA SAID THAT WE SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH DCM MAJD IN WASHINGTON, IRANIAN EMBASSY, TO SET UP SUITABLE APPOINTMENTS.

3. ANSARY EARLIER HAD INDICATED TO SENATOR PERCY THAT HE FORESAW THIS COMMISSION AS OPERATING VERY MUCH LIKE THE BILATERAL COMMISSIONS THE IRANIANS HAVE WITH EASTERN EUROPE AND OTHER COUNTRIES. IN SHORT, HE WANTS THE USG TO UNDERTAKE COMMITMENTS INVOLVING SUPPLIERS OF SERVICES, EXPERTISE AND EQUIPMENT. THIS IS A LINE THAT DR VAFA AND THE IRANIAN'S COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ARE PURSUING. MIKLOS

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